Ans May 15, '95

BRACEVILLE OHIO DEC 6 P.M. 1894

Miss Edith Hartzell.
42 N Oakland Av.
~~4455 Forbes St.~~
Pitts,
Pa.

c/o W C Guckert

Mage
Maggie
Maise

Evangelistic [illegible]

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Braceville, O.
Dec. 6th '94

Dear Cousin Edith:

Your long expected letter came to hand yesterday I had almost ceased to look for one, and realizing that procrastination is the thief of time I will embrace the first opportunity to at least begin a letter. If that letter of yours is a sample of haste I think you had better always write in a hurry. Now I know you would smile out loud if you could look in on the scene as I am seated to write with one three year old

girl and a 4 mo. old baby seated
at the writing table Ethel is
giving baby Dorotha music
lessons and shaking the
table and baby is looking as
dignified as a judge. I
will describe her she has blue
eyes light hair (or none at all
just as you choose) and is
plump as a pumpkin
vary fair and pretty, of course,
as can be, people say she
looks like me and that acco-
unts for her beauty to be
shure. Has had colic almost
ever since she saw the
light of Braceville but when
she is well is as jollie as
a baby can be. She is fretful
this wk. I think her teeth
are troubling her & to make a
long story short will say a
baby is the sweetest thing

on the earth? I dont know
I may have a dog before
I have enough. Ethel has
curls that fall over her shoul-
ders, and people go into ecstacies
over them, you know how
I always admired curls and
now I have them. She can
sing and can play chords
on the piano learned them
herself, but she is naughty
as other peoples children I
guess. When baby was three
wks. old Ethel took the whooping
cough and we have had a
siege of it. Dont talk of my
time to write when you
get the greatest gift of God
two babies of your own then
you will know what work
is with a house to care for
and social duties crowding
on you: last Sunday I almost

took the place of a minister and during our protracted meeting I attended every night but four nights during the three wks. and sang solos, of course the children don't go to church I have not been without a girl a wk. I think since baby came, The help I now have is in the morning & after 4 oclock in the afternoon & on Sat's girl stays all night and takes care of baby evenings. she is such a good trusty girl. One wk during our meeting I baked 15 loaves of bread from Sat. to Sat. so you can have an idea how much has to be prepared for the table. Grant writes Southing

ton to begin a meeting last
Sunday we expect him
home Fri. night on a visit.
He goes from Southington
to Orwell to hold a meeting
and during that time I may
close up the house and go to
Father Pikes they expect to
soon have a heater in the
house. They have lovely paper
bought for the house and
brussels carpet etc. but it
has not as yet been adjusted as
they have had more work than
usual this Fall and Father
got almost killed in a fall
so they have had a dreadfull
time of it & by the way I must
say he is relenting sloley

he lent Grant $100. when he
was there and I believe said
he would lend him $1000. in
the Spring so by that we can
pay off the others from whome
we have borrowed You wondered
if we were living in our house
no and we do not expect to
for years I dont know if
I ever described it or not I
will just say that we have a
heater which heats Halls every
room in the house bath
room with tub, and dumie
to cellar, conveniences of
china and linen closets,
and it is said to be the finest
finished house in the inside
that there is in Hiram and
there are some fine houses
there when I seen it, it
almost made me long to
live in so nice a place

but I dont want to until it is all paid for and is our own. I want you to plan to come here in your vacation in the Summer and I just want to drive you to Hiram, I believe you will think it the most beautifull country and also small town you ever seen. This is no place at all when it comes to calling it town but we have all the advantages of railroads, have fully as much smoke, & rumbling as if we lived in a city. I get almost discouraged with the smoke and soot to contend with.

Dr. Geo. King is a traveling optician stops of on his travel from Cinn. to Cleveland at our neighboring towns. Laurena Myres King has a baby. Hellen Merman

has been married for a year or so did you know it? Myola is single for all I know. Mamie Derr Stanfellow has a baby. Charles Swartz is a school teach of some note. Annie Brown is the bell of Berlin I think from what I hear, powers united you can't see any freckles. Lawrence Wagner has bought the Drug Store, don't know anything about Mrs Eleot. Dora Hawkins and husband were home again before the year was up to live with Pa and Mother, wonder why? Laura Wilson clerks in one of the largest store at Warren and Millie teaches in a school on the St. car line from Niles to Warren. I have sent them down vegitables from our garden twice in the Fall and the other day Laura sent the baby a pair of mittens & boots; people speak

well of the girls. I have never
been to their house intend
to go sometime.
Mrs. Geo. Miller of Benton has
another baby, So has Mrs. Jno.
Ward suppose you knew that.
You must have a variety
of experiences in nursing
and some sad ones to I imagine
you have in a measure
lost a great deal of your
sympathy. Am sorry
you had to succumb to
fever again, you seem to
have a, special weakness
as King used to say, for that
diseeze and I also feel
sorry for cousin Laura.
My health is good I think
as I can expect it to be, of

course the baby has pulled
me down in flesh until
I am quite thin.
Well it does seem as if Fate
is determined to throw Patt.
in your way.— What will
the final ending be can you
tell?
Well now you wanted a newsy
letter and I think you have
it and I wrote it all the
same day Wonderfull!
Now let me hear as often
as you can without
loosing to much sleep for
of course I do not approve of
late hours Wishing you
a Merry Christmas
I am as ever
Your cousin
Alice Pike